

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ALONZO JOSEPH,

Plaintiff,

No. CIV S-03-0818 MCE KJM P

vs.

DOUGLAS C. PETERSON,

Defendant.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Plaintiff is a state prisoner proceeding pro se with a civil rights action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. On May 25, 2005, defendant filed a motion for summary judgment. On September 30, 2003, the court advised plaintiff of the requirements for opposing a motion under Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. See Rand v. Rowland, 154 F.3d 952, 957 (9th Cir. 1998) (en banc), cert. denied, 527 U.S. 1035 (1999), and Klinge v. Eikenberry, 849 F.2d 409, 411-12 (9th Cir. 1988). In that same order, plaintiff was advised of the requirements for filing an opposition to the pending motion and that failure to oppose such a motion might be deemed a waiver of opposition to the motion.

On August 8, 2005, plaintiff was ordered to file an opposition or a statement of non-opposition to the pending motion within thirty days. In the same order, plaintiff was informed that failure to file an opposition would result in a recommendation that this action be

1 dismissed pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(b). The thirty day period has now expired and plaintiff
2 has not responded to the court's order.

3 “Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b), the district court may dismiss
4 an action for failure to comply with any order of the court.” Ferdik v. Bonzelet, 963 F.2d 1258,
5 1260 (9th Cir. 1992). “In determining whether to dismiss a case for failure to comply with a
6 court order the district court must weigh five factors including: ‘(1) the public's interest in
7 expeditious resolution of litigation; (2) the court's need to manage its docket; (3) the risk of
8 prejudice to the defendants; (4) the public policy favoring disposition of cases on their merits;
9 and (5) the availability of less drastic alternatives.’” Id. at 1260-61 (quoting Thompson v.
10 Housing Auth., 782 F.2d 829, 831 (9th Cir. 1986)); see also Ghazali v. Moran, 46 F.3d 52, 53
11 (9th Cir. 1995).

12 In determining to recommend that this action be dismissed, the court has
13 considered the five factors set forth in Ferdik. Here, as in Ferdik, the first two factors strongly
14 support dismissal of this action. The action has been pending for over two years and has reached
15 the stage, set by the court's scheduling order, for resolution of dispositive motions and, if
16 necessary, preparation for pretrial conference and jury trial. See Scheduling Order, filed October
17 26, 2004. Plaintiff's failure to comply with the Local Rules and the court's August 8, 2005 order
18 suggests that he has abandoned this action and that further time spent by the court thereon will
19 consume scarce judicial resources in addressing litigation that plaintiff demonstrates no intention
20 to pursue.

21 The fifth factor also favors dismissal. The court has advised plaintiff of the
22 requirements under the Local Rules and granted ample additional time to oppose the pending
23 motion, all to no avail. The court finds no suitable alternative to dismissal of this action.

24 Under the circumstances of this case, the third factor, prejudice to defendants
25 from plaintiff's failure to oppose the motion, should be given little weight. Plaintiff's failure to
26 oppose the motion does not put defendant at any disadvantage in this action. See Ferdik, 963

1 F.2d at 1262. Indeed, defendants would only be “disadvantaged” by a decision by the court to
2 continue an action plaintiff has abandoned. The fourth factor, public policy favoring disposition
3 of cases on their merits, weighs against dismissal of this action as a sanction. However, for the
4 reasons set forth above, the first, second, and fifth factors strongly support dismissal and the third
5 factor does not mitigate against it. Under the circumstances of this case, those factors outweigh
6 the general public policy favoring disposition of cases on their merits. See id. at 1263; cf. Fed.
7 R. Civ. P. 56 (providing for entry of summary judgment “if appropriate” against adverse party
8 that fails to respond to motion).

9 For the foregoing reasons, IT IS HEREBY RECOMMENDED that this action be
10 dismissed as provided by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b).

11 These findings and recommendations are submitted to the United States District
12 Judge assigned to the case, pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1). Within twenty
13 days after being served with these findings and recommendations, any party may file written
14 objections with the court and serve a copy on all parties. Such a document should be captioned
15 “Objections to Magistrate Judge’s Findings and Recommendations.” Any reply to the objections
16 shall be served and filed within ten days after service of the objections. The parties are advised
17 that failure to file objections within the specified time may waive the right to appeal the District
18 Court’s order. Martinez v. Ylst, 951 F.2d 1153 (9th Cir. 1991).

19 DATED: October 12, 2005.

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22 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
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